



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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CONTACT: William Prenevost, ext. 260

CMA DEPUTY DIRECTOR KATE SELLERS SELECTED TO LEAD HARTFORD'S WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART

(Cleveland, OH) Director Katharine Lee Reid announced today that Kate M. Sellers, deputy director of the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) has resigned to become director of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut. Ms. Sellers came to the CMA in 1995 as the Director of Development and External Affairs, and became the museum's Deputy Director in 1997. She was appointed acting director in May, 1999 after the untimely death of Robert P. Bergman.

Mrs. Reid stated: "Kate Sellers' contributions to the life of the CMA have been important during her five year tenure. We salute her achievements while wishing her every success in her new challenges at one of the nation's most venerable art museums."

Michael Horvitz, CMA Board President said, "Kate is an incredibly talented museum professional who has provided exceptional service to the Cleveland museum under extremely difficult circumstances. The entire museum owes Kate a great debt of gratitude for the way she led the museum after Bob Bergman's death. She not only kept the museum together, but enabled the museum to make great strides forward during that time. Very few people understand how much we owe her."

Ms. Sellers will begin her responsibilities in Hartford on November 1, and serve as a consultant to CMA through October 31. A search firm has been retained to begin a national search for a new head of development and external affairs.

Prior to Cleveland, Ms. Sellers was Deputy Director and Director of

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Development and Communications for the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore from 1987 to 1994. There she also served as acting director: first in 1989-90 when Bob Bergman, then Director at the Walters, took a sabbatical in Rome, and again in 1993-94 during that museum's search for Bergman's replacement after he assumed the directorship in Cleveland.

As Deputy Director for the Cleveland Museum of Art, Ms. Sellers played an integral role in the development of the museum's strategic plan, the master facilities plan, and the Convening the Community outreach program. During that time the museum experienced substantial growth in attendance (from a 450,000 average to the current 600,000 average) and membership (from around 17,000 to 30,000).

The Wadsworth Atheneum, founded in 1842 by Daniel Wadsworth, is one of the oldest art museums in America. The permanent collection is similar to Cleveland's in size (approximately 45,000 works) and in range (from ancient Egyptian to contemporary). It is known for its "Pilgrim-Century" American furniture and decorative arts collection, the largest of its kind; its Hudson River School landscape paintings, and for its MATRIX program of changing contemporary exhibitions and performances.

The Cleveland Museum of Art has been working closely with the Wadsworth Atheneum in co-organizing the exhibition **Picasso: The Artist's Studio**, scheduled for Cleveland in fall of 2001.

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